

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 09/821,279 | MAEHIRO, KAZUTOYO | |
| | Examiner Asad M. Nawaz | Art Unit 2155 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the RCE received 2/27/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date herewith.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

BHARAT BAROT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alan Miken on 6/9/06 and Steve Wegman (Reg. No. 31,438) on 7/24/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: insert "second" after "at least one additional" in line 19.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium for a client system in a message exchanging system, the recording medium having a message exchanging program recorded therein as to be executable, the message exchanging system comprising a plurality of client systems and at least one server system connected together via a communications network, the server system authenticating each user of said plurality of client systems and accumulating and distributing messages, said plurality of client systems exchanging messages via said server system, the program comprising;

a first message exchange having a first interface containing an instruction that enables one-to-one message exchanges with a first client system of said plurality of client systems, the first interface being limited to one-to-one message exchanges;

a second message exchange having a second interface containing an instruction that enables simultaneous message exchanges with at least one other second client system of said plurality of client systems;

and a message exchange switching instruction that switches between the first interface of said first message exchange and the second interface of said second message exchange, in response to an action by a user of the client system when a message is received from said second client system while said first message exchange is exchanging messages with said first client system, to enable message exchanges with said first and second client systems.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The recording medium of claim 10, wherein said message exchange switching instruction sets in said server system an environment for allowing said second message exchange to exchange messages when said message exchange switching switches from said first message exchange to said second message exchange.

Reasons For Allowance

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach alone or in combination a message exchanging switching system that switches between interfaces of a one-to-one messaging application and a simultaneous messaging application. The switching is conditional, responsive to an action by a user when the client system receives a message while the messaging application is exchanging messages. This limitation in conjunction with the environment of the instant application, including disparate messaging applications executed by a system, is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M. Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Bharat Barot
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